

Amendment and Response

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Serial No.: 09/847,942

Confirmation No.: 6169

Filed: 2 May 2001

For: PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVE FIBERS WITH A REINFORCING MATERIAL.**Remarks**

The Final Office Action mailed 17 March 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 17-20, and 27-31 having been amended, claim 21 having been cancelled, and claims 50-54 having been added, the pending claims are claims 1-20 and 22-54. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Interview Summary

Applicants' Representative, Ann Mueting, thanks the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview on July 9, 2003. Examiners Thompson and Gray took part in the interview as did Applicants' Representative Ann Mueting, and Applicants Eugene G. Joseph and Albert I. Everaerts. During the interview, Reidel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,173) was discussed along with the present invention. No agreement was reached.

The 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20, 22-25, and 40-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riedel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,173).

The Examiner rejected claim 1 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hicks, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,659,923) in view of Riedel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,173).

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections and arguments, and reserve the right to pursue the previously pending claims in a continuing application. However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims.

None of the cited documents teach or suggest a pressure sensitive adhesive fiber that includes: a pressure sensitive adhesive component; and an organic polymeric reinforcing material comprising a plurality of substantially continuous minimicrofibers having a diameter of no greater than about 10 microns within the pressure sensitive adhesive component; wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber comprises about 60 weight percent to about 95 weight percent of the pressure sensitive adhesive component and about 5 weight percent to about 40 weight

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TC 1700

percent of minimicrofibrous organic polymeric reinforcing material based on a total weight of the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber, and further wherein a nonwoven web comprising the pressure sensitive adhesive fiber and having a basis weight of about 55 g/m² has a maximum load of at least about 30 g/cm, which is at least about 150% of the load at yield point, and an elongation at break of at least about 50%.

OFFICIAL

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 1-20 and 22-54 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted for
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By

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Aug. 18, 2003
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AMM/rgg

By: Ann M. Mueting

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile in accordance with 37 CFR §1.6(d) to the Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 18th day of August, 2003, at 2:13 p.m. (Central Time).

By: R. Gagliardi - GebhardtName: Rachel Gagliardi-Gebhardt